

Montana
Comprehensive Assessment
System (MontCAS, Phase 2)
Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE
READING, GRADE 8



OPI

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Reading Session 1

Read this story about Donna and Joanna and then answer the questions that follow.

On the Boardwalk¹

Carol Hammond

Donna walked the boardwalk alone most nights during the summer. On hot nights like this, with the air heavy like a blanket, she walked slowly, feeling each board under her feet. She listened to the sound of waves lapping at the shore and the music from the bandstand. She watched as the Ferris wheel² lifted children and parents off the ground in a swirling circle of light.

Donna liked these evenings, when the sky seemed to stretch on forever and the stars hung like tiny, twinkling pieces of glass. Suddenly, Donna saw her. Joanna Miller was standing on the other side of the boardwalk with her friends, leaning against a post, eating ice cream. She seemed so much more mature than Donna. Her clothes, a purple knit top and shorts, were the same ones Donna had seen on a mannequin in a shop window last week.

Donna's father had said when Donna mentioned at dinner that Joanna Miller had shown up at school wearing the exact sneakers Donna had wanted. "Clothes do not," he said, "make the person."

Donna's father didn't understand. It wasn't just the clothes. It was the fact that Joanna Miller thought she was too cool for Donna. She never talked to her. She never even noticed her in the hallway at school or in the courtyard during lunch. She acted like she didn't exist. If Donna could show up at school in those sneakers or, better yet, something Joanna didn't have, it would show Joanna Miller that she wasn't the only one with style.

"She thinks she is better than I am," thought Donna as she watched Joanna from across the way, her hair tucked gently behind her ears, one hand lifting a spoonful of ice cream to her mouth. Donna imagined that Joanna was telling her friends about all the things she had bought that day that were sitting in the brightly colored bags at her feet. Donna imagined that Joanna Miller was saying nasty things about her and that every time she laughed it was about her. That's when Joanna Miller looked up and saw Donna staring. She stood still with the spoon in her mouth and her eyes fixed on Donna's. Joanna's friends, all at once, turned to look at Donna, too.

Donna moved her eyes quickly to her feet, which she suddenly noticed were in tattered sandals, with bits of dried, salty sand stuck to her toes. She felt hot and started to breathe faster. Joanna Miller had caught her in full stare. There was nothing she could do now but walk over there and say hello. Her feet began to move slowly, almost against her will, to the other side of the boardwalk until she was standing face to face with Joanna Miller and her three friends. It was dead quiet.

"Hi," Donna said and swallowed hard.

Joanna Miller didn't grimace or frown or toss that perfect hair of hers over her shoulder. She didn't snicker or sigh or roll her eyes. She didn't do any of the things Donna had imagined that had for so long kept her from approaching Joanna Miller. All she did was put her spoon back into her ice cream and smile. Then she said "Hi" back. Her voice was soft and nice, not snippy or mean at all.

¹ boardwalk: a walkway along a beach

² Ferris wheel: an amusement park ride consisting of a large upright wheel with seats

Joanna's friends moved off into their own little circle and Joanna said; "You're Donna Holmes, right?" Donna nodded. "You have the best hair," she said. "I bet everyone tells you that." Donna's mouth fell open and she laughed. Joanna Miller was complimenting her on her straight, brown, boring hair. "I've always wanted straight hair," she said.

Donna could see Joanna's friends staring over in shock at her and Joanna. Joanna called them over and they came across to join them. Donna felt the hot, sticky air give way to a cool offshore breeze. It was a breath of fresh air for all of them.

22. What lesson does Donna learn in this story? Explain your answer, using information from the story as support.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response includes a clear and plausible lesson, and a fully developed explanation that is well supported with specific, relevant details from the story.
3	Response includes a clear and plausible lesson, and an adequate explanation that lacks some development and/or some specific, relevant details.
2	Response includes a plausible lesson. The explanation is partial and contains limited or no relevant details as support. The response may contain some misinformation or misinterpretation.
1	Response minimally addresses the question. The response may indicate a lesson and/or contain a vague explanation with little or no support from the story.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Notes

Possible lessons:

- Don't judge others too quickly.
- Don't make judgments about others based on initial appearances such as clothes, perceived attitudes, etc.
- Have confidence in yourself; believe in yourself.
- Sometimes you have to be the one to take the first step toward a friendship.

Possible details:

- Joanna wore sophisticated clothes like a mannequin in a shop window.
- Donna's father told her that "clothes do not make the person."
- Donna imagined Joanna telling her friends about all the things she had bought and saying nasty things about her.
- Joanna's voice was soft and nice, not snippy or mean.
- Joanna's hair was tucked gently behind her ears. She told Donna that she thought Donna had "the best hair."

Score Point 4

Sample 1

Donna learns to not judge other people by their clothes or how much money they have. Donna thought Joanna was mean because she had fancy clothes + her dad had lots of money. Once Donna went up + talked to her she knew Joanna was nice. Joanna didn't laugh or grimace, she just said hi back. Joanna even complimented Donna on her hair. I think the lesson Donna learns is not to judge people by what they look like or what they have; she learns to see how they act before she decides what kind of person they are.

Sample 2

Donna realizes that you cannot judge a person by the way they dress or any other material thing. Joanna was never mean to Donna, but Donna was too scared to realize that. When Joanna complimented on Donna's straight, brown hair it helped Donna realize that she has something of her own that Joanna also appreciates. Donna also starts to realize that if she's just happy with what God gave her instead of wanting everyone else's things, she will have more friends, and a more satisfying life. Donna and Joanna are probably still friends to this very day, just because Donna said hi. Donna had a lot of courage to do that. Saying hi is what started their friendship, and what made Donna realize not to judge people.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

Before Donna talked to Joanna she thought Joanna was a snob because she never noticed her. After Donna did talk to her, she realized that Joanne was nice and not stuck up. Donna learned that you have to get to know a person before you make a judgement on them.

Sample 2

Donna learns in this story that everything is not always as it appears to be. Donna had thought, at the beginning of the story, that Joanna Miller would frown and toss her hair if Donna ever walked up to her. When this actually does happen, Joanna is in fact very pleasant to Donna. She compliments Donna on her hair and even calls her friends over to talk with the two of them.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

Donna learns that you shouldn't misjudge people by their looks or if they don't talk to you. When Joanna didn't talk to Donna, Donna had the impression that Joanna was snooty and mean. Donna also thought that Joanna was too cool for Donna. Through Donna thinking this, I think Donna had very low esteem for herself to think that.

Sample 2

Donna learns not to judge somebody by the outside. Some one could be completely different. Donna also knows now that just because somebody ignores you doesn't mean there mean or stuck-up.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

Donna learns the lesson don't be afraid, seize the day. She took a chance and walked over, she said something nice about Joanna. She got over her fears.

Sample 2

Donna learned to face her fears and to be able to go up and talk to people who look snobby and rude and give them a chance.

Reading Session 3

This article tells about the Zamboni brothers. Read the article and then answer the questions that follow.

Nice Ice!

Andrea Jachman

Frank Zamboni and his brother Lawrence were known as “ice men”; they owned a plant that made block ice used while transporting fruits and other perishables by rail across the country. By the 1940s, however, other plants began manufacturing refrigeration machines that would soon make the brothers’ business obsolete.

Born in the Desert

But the Zamboni brothers were determined to make a business out of what they knew—ice. That first happened with the creation of the Iceland Skating Rink, which opened for business in 1940 in Paramount, California, and which presented its own set of problems.

A new dome over the rink helped solve one problem—the damage done by the intense California sun and the hot desert winds. That left another big problem. The brothers quickly discovered that maintaining their ice sheet for the legions of visitors was hard work. With 20,000 square feet of ice surface, the rink was big enough for up to 800 skaters at a time—a lot of business, but a lot of work. What were they to do about the daily, unavoidable wear and tear caused by enthusiastic skaters?

The customary method for ice resurfacing at the time was laborious and time-consuming. First, any standing dirty water had to be mopped off. Then, a tractor circled the ice, pulling a scraper that shaved the surface. Workers would follow behind to scoop off the shavings. Finally, an extra-long hose was used to spray a fresh layer of water, which would freeze into a glistening, smooth surface for the next round of skaters. This process could take up to two hours.

The brothers knew there had to be a better way. In 1942, they began working on a Jeep that would incorporate all those capabilities into one machine. It would take seven years until the first successful Zamboni took its turn around the rink. They called that Zamboni the Model A.

Success and Some Help from a Star

The Model A had huge wooden sides and a conveyor belt system to remove the snow. It was odd looking, but it did the job. It scraped the ice, scooped up the shavings, smoothed the surface, and then coated it with clean, fresh water—all within fifteen minutes! The Zamboni brothers had solved the problem of smoothing the ice at Iceland. That was all they ever wanted. But that was before fortune came knocking on their door.

Olympic figure skater Sonja Henie frequently practiced at Iceland. The moment she saw the Zamboni drive onto the ice, she knew she had to have one. In her honor the Zamboni brothers built the Model B and personally delivered it to her at Chicago Stadium, where she was performing. In Chicago, ice rink owners, performers, and arena managers throughout the country received a glimpse of the marvelous Model B. They, too, wanted Model Bs of their own, and the orders came pouring in.

The Zambonis continued to tinker with their Model B, and none of the first 16 sold were exactly alike. The first to have significant design changes became the Model C. This model’s driver’s seat was elevated for better visibility, and the snow tank was lowered for more snow capacity. The differences between the Model C and the later Model D were mostly cosmetic.

The Model E was a breakthrough for the brothers; it was the first that could be mass-produced. And it was right on time. It was 1954, and national exposure of the Zamboni had created quite a demand. In 1958 it would gain international attention at the Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, California. And with ice-skating becoming an increasingly popular pastime, a rising demand had to be met.

Alterations continued, creating the Model F, the **10** HD series, and the 500 series of today. With each new model the Zambonis improved their invention,

eventually abandoning the cumbersome Jeep and using just its chassis, or body, thus increasing its water- and snow-carrying capacities.

A Rink Ritual Unchanged

Today the Zamboni is used around the world, but each new machine goes through this time-honored ritual: after production at the original southern California plant, it is driven down the streets of Paramount to the Iceland Skating Rink for a test drive and then loaded off for work in parts unknown.

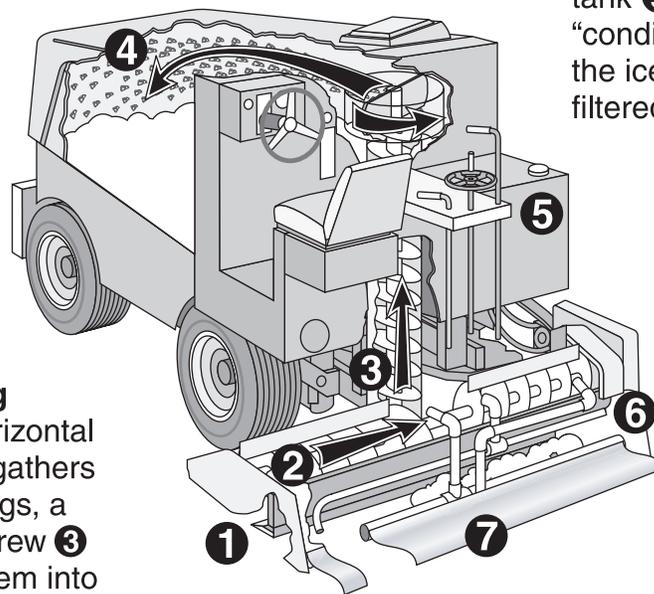
How It Works

Shaving

A blade **1** shaves the surface of the ice.

Collecting

After a horizontal screw **2** gathers the shavings, a vertical screw **3** propels them into the snow tank. **4**



Washing

Water is fed from a wash-water tank **5** to a squeegee-like "conditioner" **6**, which smooths the ice. Dirty water is vacuumed, filtered, and returned to the tank.

Renewing

Clean hot water is spread on the ice by a towel **7** behind the conditioner.

67. Is this article about good fortune, skill, or both? Explain your answer, using details from the article to support your explanation.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response indicates that this article is about good fortune, about skill, or about both. The response provides a likely and developed explanation that is well supported with specific, relevant details from the article.
3	Response indicates that this article is about good fortune, about skill, or about both. The response provides a likely and adequate explanation that lacks some development and/or some specific, relevant details.
2	Response indicates that this article is about good fortune, about skill, or about both. The explanation is partial and contains limited details as support. The response may contain some misinformation or misinterpretation.
1	Response minimally addresses the question. The response may indicate that this article is about good fortune, about skill, or about both and/or contain a vague explanation with little or no support from the article.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Notes

Details supporting good fortune:

- The Zambonis had not planned to market the machine.
- The connection with Sonja Henie meant that the machine got exposure.
- The machine’s development coincided with the increase in popularity of ice skating.
- Because the machine is used around the world, the Zambonis’ good fortune resulted in financial gain.

Details supporting skill:

- The Zambonis were able to adapt their business.
- Frank was skilled enough to develop a new machine.
- The Zambonis responded to their machine’s popularity by being willing to make more and sell them.
- The Zambonis kept improving their machine.

Score Point 4

Sample 1

This article is about both skill and good fortune. First, the brothers had to be skilled enough to make good enough ice blocks to create a skating rink. Once they got the rink running, the brothers had to be smart enough to invent something to cut their maintenance time down from two hours to fifteen minutes. They did this by building a machine to do it for them. That took skill. Good fortune played its part in the story of these brothers lives when Sonja Henie, a famous figure skater, wanted to buy one of the new machines, known as the Zamboni. The two brothers delivered the Zamboni to her in Chicago where everyone, especially ice-skating rink managers and owners, could see it. Soon there was a demand for Zambonis and the brothers made a good living from then on. Their factory still runs today.

Score Point 4

Sample 2

This article is about both good fortune and skill. The Zamboni brothers had great skill from their knowledge about ice. It took a great deal of knowledge of ice and mechanics to invent the Zamboni in 1942. The Zamboni brothers had a great deal of good fortune when olympic figure skater Sonja Henie, who frequently practiced at Iceland, saw the Model A drive on the ice. Sonja Henie bought Model B and the Zamboni brothers personally brought it to her in Chicago. People who saw the Zamboni Model B had to have one. The Zamboni brothers made many other models like the Model C, Model E, Model F, the HD series, and the 500 series. Through their great knowledge of ice and good fortune the Zamboni brother's Zamboni is still used around the world.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

This article is about both good fortune and skill. The Zamboni brothers had skill and experience in making ice and maintaining an ice rink. It was hard work to do all that, and time consuming. So they used their skill to make the Zamboni machine. Then they had the good fortune of an Olympic figure skater wanting their new invention. She helped them to promote it, in a way. When other skating rink owners saw the Zamboni, they had to have one too. So they made a business out of it.

Sample 2

I believe that this passage is about both good fortune and skill. The Zamboni brothers had the good fortune of discovering this new idea first and of being so successful. They had the skills necessary to do the job from many years of hard work. This was a task they were very knowledgeable about. If they hadn't made a Model B especially for Sonja Henie and delivered it to a packed stadium their invention would have not introduced and received so well. It would have taken much longer for the Zamboni to become a well known invention.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

I'd have to say both. They were fortunate that the professional skater came and knocked on their door. They were skilled on ice and knowing about ice. Also, they were skilled at designing and building the Zamboni.

Sample 2

This article is about both skill and fortune. Because it took skill to be able to build something that can do all the things an ice rink needs to stay in good condition and it good fortune for people to want this machine for their ice rink even though it cost alot of money.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

The new machine made cleaning
rinks easier.

Sample 2

It is about good fortune cause the Zambani
brothers had a lot of good fortune.
They said "Fortune came knocking on
there door". That means they had
a good easy thing to do.